

## Durant Weekly News

Official Paper of Bryan County

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E. M. EVANS, Editor and Publisher



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer was engineer in an electric light plant in Detroit. Charlie Murphy, the baseball millionaire was a reporter on the Cincinnati Enquirer. Thomas H. Ince, the motion picture magnate, was a comic opera comedian, glad to get \$50 per week. Charlie Wehrman, owner of the Chicago Federal Baseball team and a string of Chicago restaurants, was a waiter in a quick lunch room. And so it goes. The list could be strung out to a column's length. Therefore when you hear a boy or a young man complain that he has no chance, take him by the arm and tell him a few things. There never was a time in the world's history when there were more opportunities for a young man to push to the front. There never was a time when a little intelligence and determination would provide a man with competence in a few years. This is particularly true in the farming business—for farming is a business. The young man of today who will take hold of the farm with the idea of making it the best farm in the county and who will work intelligently for ten years, with the idea always before him, will not have to work for the remainder of his life.



Ancestors came from, he would probably be squeezing the juice out of the corn in a wholesale manner. But he would get the best juice from the best corn in the best way. There wouldn't be any makeshift or alteration about it. And if he were one of the King's men the office would receive his personal attention in a business-like and honest manner.

But as we find Mr. Slaughter in Durant instead of in either of the other places this story must be made to fit his environments. He is an optician practicing optometry, and he does his work with a methodical system just as he would apply to office holding in England or manufacturing whisky in Kentucky. He first learned how many years ago from the master of the profession, and every day since he manages to learn more of the science. He is afraid that the science of correctly adjusting and fitting glasses to the human eye is a progressive science; a science that is always turning up something new

for the benefit of the race, and this man keeps constantly abreast of the times. Nothing new in his profession escapes him.

Dr. Slaughter was born in St. Louis which was a considerable town, even then. He attended the city schools when his parents could catch up with him, and did about as other boys of his age and time. One day when he was still a little tot he got the western fever and hiked for the town of Leadville, in Colorado. That was away back in 1889, and the experience he had in that rough frontier would make a book. Slaughter came to Oklahoma in 1894 and has been here ever since.

In past years the uninformed public had the habit of looking upon the eye-glass man about as it did upon the lightning-rod man. But modern science and education have brought about a great change in the matter of eye glasses. In good truth, the better grade of physicians, scientific men, college, the press, are constantly warning the public to beware of alleged opticians who are not a graduate of recognized institutions and who is not duly authorized by the various states in which they practice. Only a few years ago anyone who wished could sell eye glasses—and ruin more eyes in a week than old age could ruin in a century. This is not the case today. More and more restrictions are thrown about the business each year, and the man now who is not college trained and has no diploma, is sure to get in bad with the law. This is as it should be. The eye is the most delicate organ of the human system and the care of it is an exact science, and Duran is indeed fortunate to have a resident authorized optometrist. Dr. Slaughter is a graduate of a number of the best optical colleges of the country, and keeps thoroughly posted on the latest inventions pertaining to the profession.

Dr. Slaughter is a pleasant and interesting gentleman and has been a resident of Bryan county for the past five years. He has traveled over much of the union, always studying his great profession and improving both his methods and his instruments and is rated high with licensed optometrists wherever he is known.

## DURANT GETS IN

## THE SPOT LIGHT

In an Article in the New York Sun, the World's Greatest Newspaper, Bill Sterrett Takes the Hat off of Scenario Editors.

Recently the New York Sun, considered the world's greatest newspaper, published an interview with the editor of a big film producing company, in which the editor said that everybody wrote picture plays but very few, if any of them, were worth considering.

Mr. W. S. Sterrett, of Durant, took issue with the editor and roared him and his kind in general. Since Mr. Sterrett's article appeared upon the editorial pages of the Sun he has received many letters from all over the country, all agreeing with him and thanking him for his stand against the picture trust. The strangest thing is the fact that two of the biggest motion picture houses have offered Sterrett the editorship of their scenario department, while many others have requested him to write photoplays for them. It takes a powerful writer to get in the Sun, and the following article clipped from that paper is perhaps the strongest bid for fame that Durant has yet had:

## TO A SCENARIO EDITOR.

A Bold Oklahoma Challenge Accompanied with a Guarantee.

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: In the Sun of February 18 appeared an interview with a scenario editor which is important, if true. That is the scenario editor is important. If true. But is he?

However it be, I should like to pose for an instant as public defender, for I am one plain American who has some faith in the great public, even if this representative of a new born profession has not. To quote briefly from the interview:

"The scenario editor of the film concern put his feet on a pile of manuscripts, lighted his pipe and prepared to reply to the question, 'Who writes the scenarios for moving picture plays?'

"My dear boy," he said, "the public is the scenario writer. I have been the scenario editor here for five years and during that time every person in the United States above the age of twelve years has submitted one or more manuscripts to me. Everybody in the United States

writes photoplays now. It requires education, technique, imagination, ingenuity, and intelligence to write a photoplay. I write scripts myself."

"There is the bug under the chip. He writes them all himself; and yes he has just said that the public writes them. But of course he cannot accept manuscripts from the 100 million people in the country, because the people have no education, no technique, no imagination, no ingenuity, no intelligence. Why this is an idea that would make a grand photoplay. Were it not so tragic it would make a farce comedy that would convulse all nations, even including Mexico. ... and it proves conclusively that the scenario editor does not know an idea when he hears it stalking about his office. It shows why he is forced to decline virtually all the 'scripts' that are sent to him by all the people in America.

"When the Sun reporter found this great scenario editor 'he put his feet on a pile of manuscripts and prepared to answer the question.' Exactly. He put his feet on them. Probably if he had put his head on them he would have been able to find a few ideas lurking somewhere. But maybe not. As public defender I am willing to believe that this scenario editor's head is merely a knot placed on his shoulders to keep him from rattling.

"The Sun is a great discoverer and has always been. And now that it has discovered the only man in America who has intelligence, education and ingenuity and technique and imagination, and who can write a photoplay, the whole of creation will applaud. But in my capacity as public defender I must dissent. Some of my clients are strong in the belief that most of the trouble is with the so-called scenario editors rather than with the scenarios. They believe that if the great producers would employ editors who had been as far as four hundred miles from the brush pile they hide under they would soon learn that ideas for plays were plentiful.

"Could it not be possible that the said scenario editor is wise enough to know that if he accepted the ideas of the public Othello's occupation would soon be gone? My honest opinion is that the first producer that employs a genuine newspaper editor to look after his correspondence will be the one that gets better stuff every week than has ever been filmed.

"Picture plays do not require the mid-wife services of a scenario editor, especially one who does not know

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THE NEWS  
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Make remittances to Durant Weekly News  
Durant, Oklahoma

## Wilson Talked of for Governor.

No sooner is one governor of Oklahoma elected and settled down to business than prospects for four years hence, begin to be common topics. Political dopesters have already been looking around for a likely and strong candidate for governor in 1918 and have centered their attention upon State Superintendent R. H. Wilson, who is now serving his second term in that office. When asked about the matter Mr. Wilson advised his "temperies" that right at this time he is more interested in the making of a good superintendent of public instruction than in any other matter.

W. S. STERRETT,  
Durant, Oklahoma, March 7.

## Katy Shops to Run on Full Time.

According to the Denison Herald, the Katy shops at that place will run six days a week instead of five as previously, and take on an additional crew of fifty men, effective April 1.

Fifty more men will be placed back on their jobs on May 1, and so on at the rate of fifty men per month, until the original shop crew is at work again.

—And please let me not be misunderstood. For I am not a photoplaywright. And I am not looking for a job as scenario editor. I am a totally unknown American citizen, except in a limited zone, where I am known as something of an iconoclast and a caller of the bluffs of fakirs and extravagant talkers. And on this basis I am going to make a proposition to our friend, the scenario editor, or to any other scenario editor who imagines that he is the only one in America who can put a photoplay over. Here it is briefly:

"I will guarantee to go to New York, and in the presence of a properly selected committee, write a photoplay every day for ten days. I will guarantee that every one of the plays will pass the National Board of Censors, and when produced at any given theater that the plays will have larger audiences and give better satisfaction than any ten plays shown at the house during the ten days previous.

"This seem rather strong, I know. But it isn't. And besides that I am going to make it stronger. I will deposit enough money with any agreed authority to pay the cost of



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You can reach Kansas City, St. Louis or Chicago in better time—with greater comfort by using The Katy Limited or The Katy Flyer.

For fares, berths or any travel information ask nearest railroad Agent, or write,

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